

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

#### **Prior Art**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Oda et al. (U.S. 6,795,119).

Applicant submits herewith a verified English translation of the priority document JP 11-257139 in the present application, removing the Oda patent as prior art. Applicants note that the earliest filing date of Oda is September 8, 2000, while the present application has a priority date of June 2, 2000. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

#### **Allowance of Application**

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

### **Conclusion**

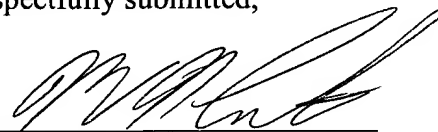
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$120.00 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael R. Cammarata  
Registration No.: 39,491  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant